

## PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 7, 2014

A public hearing of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Jay Furfaro, Chair, Committee of the Whole, on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 5:07 p.m., at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Room 201, Historic County Building, Līhu'e, and the presence of the following was noted:

Honorable Tim Bynum  
Honorable Mason K. Chock, Sr.  
Honorable Gary L. Hooser  
Honorable Ross Kagawa  
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Honorable Jay Furfaro

Excused: Honorable Mel Rapozo

The Clerk read the notice of the public hearing on the following:

1. Resolution No. 2014-11 – RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015 FOR THE COUNTY OF KAUAI
2. Bill No. 2537 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET AND FINANCING THEREOF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015 (*Mayor's Operating Budget*)
3. Bill No. 2538 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND FINANCING THEREOF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015 (*Mayor's CIP Budget*),”

which was passed on first reading and ordered to print by the Council of the County of Kaua'i on March 27, 2014, and published in The Garden Island newspaper on April 3, 2014.

The following communications were received for the record:

1. Joan Levy, dated May 6, 2014
2. Julian Miller, dated May 6, 2014
3. Bruna Stude, dated May 7, 2014
4. Marj Dente, dated May 7, 2014
5. Reve E. Solomon, dated May 7, 2014
6. Tad Miura, dated May 7, 2014

7. Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance, undated
8. Taryn Rodighiero, undated
9. Anonymous, undated
10. Carol Ann Davis, undated
11. Denise Tjarks, undated

Chair Furfaro: Jade, has somebody collected the sign-up?  
Do we know how many people we have to testify?

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA: We have approximately eight (8) people signed up currently, Chair.

Chair Furfaro: We have eight (8) people signed up to speak and we will call out your name and the next person so that you know when you are coming up. Okay? So thank you for being here for today's public hearing on the budget. The first two (2) names are?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The first registered speaker is Diane Zachary followed by Kat Cowan, and both are speaking on the Operating Budget.

Chair Furfaro: While Diane is on her way up, Vice Chair, you had a question about the process?

Mr. Chock: We can cover it after.

Chair Furfaro: Okay. Welcome. Good evening, Diane.

The hearing proceeded as follows:

DIANE ZACHARY: Good evening. Thank you so much. Diane Zachary, Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance. It is a pleasure to be here. Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance recently released the fourth edition of our Community Indicators Report measuring what matters for Kaua'i, and it looks like this and hopefully you all got the copy that was delivered to you. It is also available on our website for anyone else who wants it. It is [kauainetwork.org](http://kauainetwork.org) and it was really our intentions to have you use it as a basis of information and reference during your decision making. Not only you but others in the community who can use a document like that to help them with their business planning, their non-profit planning, trying to think of how should they move forward in their own work. The indicators really show some real highlights, some wonderful things that are going on in our community and just to name a very few of them, we are developing a lot more sustainable behaviors, both in our water use and our energy use. More people are riding the bus, more people are recycling so there is less going to the landfill, more people are growing their own food in their backyard or in community gardens,

unemployment has decreased, the job count is up, and until very recently the tourism count was up, home prices are coming back up, and many young people, even more young people than before are choosing to go to two (2) and four (4) year colleges and their readiness for college is improving. But there are some real major causes for concern that I think that I really wanted to call to you attention before you begin your deliberations. There is a growing gap between the higher and the lower ends of our economic scale. While median incomes are going up, they are not keeping pace with inflation and people are really struggling to try to make ends meet. We are trying to stretch that dollar as far as we can. Poverty rate is up. About one in five (1:5) of our children are living in poverty, eighteen percent (18%). The need for emergency food is increasing along with a number of people who are homeless, cases of child abuse and neglect are up, violent and property related crimes are up. Those are real causes for concern and I hope you will that you will think about that as you think about some of the decisions you are making moving forward. So the report offers a lot more information, more detail and graphs and charts and all of that, but still as an island we are pretty resilient. The *aloha* spirit is still strong, more that fifty-one percent (51%) say it is as strong or stronger than ever. We are really very pleased to be able to provide this document which is the fourth edition, we do them every two (2) year. This last document cost us fifty-four thousand five hundred dollars (\$54,500) to produce. We used three (3) different consultants as well as our own staff to produce it.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Ms. Zachary: The County provided...

Chair Furfaro: Diane, may I interrupt you for a minute?

Ms. Zachary: Yes you may.

Chair Furfaro: Just because this is such an important document, and at the discretion of the Chairman, I will go ahead and give you an additional three (3) minutes, and I also want to ask that you please consider providing this presentation at the beginning of the budget cycle in the future. Go right ahead.

Ms. Zachary: But you are not making decisions yet so that is good thing.

Chair Furfaro: That is only until Tuesday.

Ms. Zachary: We really appreciate the County's support for this document. It has really been very critical. We received twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in County support this year, but as I mentioned, the document costs fifty-four thousand five hundred dollars (\$54,500) so I know the

Mayor's budget has twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in it. We certainly need at least that, but we would really appreciate if there is any way of doing it, bumping it to thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) and then we will look for private funding in order to get the balance. Funding is tough to get in this time, because of all the social needs that I really want people to be thinking about supporting. But I think with the County support and some private support we will be able to take care of it. We will be starting on this new document at the end of this year for publication in fall 2015.

The very final thing that I wanted to mention and there is someone else who will speak to this issue is support for the Keiki to Career Initiative, which is also in the budget. It is in the Office of Economic Development budget that is part of the Comprehensive Development Strategy (CEDS) funding and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) has been requested. That is a very critical amount that is needed to support this program. Our Grant-In-Aid that we submitted was not funded, which was a blow. This is such a unique program, a collective impact program, the only one of its kind in the whole State. It is very focused on shared measures, shared values, shared vision and accountability. Making sure that our programs are as strong, efficient and as effective as they can be so that our young people are ready to learn and ready for life. We have many, many people in the community who are supporting this initiative through their partnership, their participation and committees. We have the Chamber of Commerce that is a part of this, in addition to the Department of Education, Kaua'i Community College, preschools, the Department of Health, I mean just lots and lots of different programs along with some of our County employees that I am very pleased to have participate. Your support for at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for this program would be greatly appreciated. Again, I know how tough the budget is. If there is a way of bumping that up, gosh we would be so appreciative because we were really counting on that State funding. With that I thank you for the time and I really thank you for all that you are doing on behalf of our community.

Chair Furfaro: Well thank you, Diane. And I do want to say on behalf of the County we certainly appreciate all that you do in our home island. Thank you very much.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The next speaker is Kat Cowan followed by Denise Tjarks. Both speaking on the operating budget.

KAT COWAN: Thank you for letting me speak. My name is Kat Cowan. I am here to speak about the budget. I wrote a proposal about considering arts and culture in the budget. We are a group of artists and practitioners, creative people and we realized that it has been recognized in the CEDS report that Kaua'i Economic Board created that arts and culture is a big part of economic development. Some of the things that we are real interested in is growing a deep roots into our economic structure of arts and culture, thus

supporting artist and creative people. Some of the things we are thinking that will help grow this and help the economic development of our island being that things like the arts that have been happening in Kapa'a for art night. We would like to support that on a bigger scale. Part of it is considering a...one of the things we were thinking of is to consider hiring an arts and culture commissioner for the Office of Economic Development. This could be in partnership with the current film commissioner. We think that as artist and creative people we can bring as much money in. We would like an arts center. We believe that having a central place to do creative work, to teach, to host events, open up the community and visitors to the artist in the community. We think this could be a big economic boom. One of the things that the Americans for the Arts decided when they were creating the prosperity floor plan that I talk about in this proposal. One of the things they sighted, they saw that one hundred thirty-two billion dollars (\$132,000,000,000) were created in arts, non-profit arts organizations alone. If you divide this up into fifty (50) States it equals two billion six million dollars (\$2,600,000,000) and we know that is not really...every State is different but I also got their report for Hawai'i and the arts were pretty strong. They have a total attendance for arts and culture events were over two million (2,000,000). The revenue created was one hundred and twenty-six million five hundred four thousand dollars (\$126,504,000) which is a huge substantial amount of money and this is just for the State of Hawai'i.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Ms. Cowan: So we believe this is a really important part of economic development growth for Kaua'i. Another thing is that the one percent (1%) for the arts program, similar to the State Foundation of Culture in the Arts...

Chair Furfaro: Excuse me, Kat.

Ms. Cowan: Yes.

Chair Furfaro: I will let you summarize if you can do it in one (1) minute. If not I will give you another three (3) but after everybody else speaks. Would you like the minute to summarize or would you come back?

Ms. Cowan: Yes, I would.

Chair Furfaro: You will have the minute. Then go ahead.

Ms. Cowan: What I would like to propose, I know you have a lot on your plate this next year. We would like to propose some kind of feasibility study in the form of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to go towards developing arts and culture. We would like to continue this discussion and we have

been working with Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance. We would like to continue developing arts and culture. We believe it is strong for the community and for developing jobs across the board.

Chair Furfaro: Thank you. Okay, I am going to break my own rules because JoAnn has a question. I have been with her for twelve (12) years and I would also like to let you know that I did send your proposal that you sent to me to the Office of Economic Development. JoAnn, you have the floor. One (1) question, please.

Ms. Yukimura: I just want to get a copy of the data on arts revenues if you could.

Ms. Cowan: Oh yes. I wanted to send this to you guys. This is...I have seven (7) copies here.

Ms. Yukimura: Perfect. Thank you.

Chair Furfaro: Great. You can give them to Scott. Thank you so much.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The next speaker is Denise Tjarks followed by Carol Ann Davis.

Chair Furfaro: Denise, welcome.

DENISE TJARKS: Thank you. This is my first time speaking in front of the Council for anything so I am sorry if I am nervous.

Chair Furfaro: You have to start by introducing your name for the record please.

Ms. Tjarks: Okay. My name is Denise Tjarks. I am one of the founders of The Kaua'i Art Factory. I am here today in support in partnership with Kat Cowan's broader vision for an arts and cultural feasibility study and I am just going to speak for another minute of two specifically on my interest which is the development of an art center. The Kaua'i Art Factory's mission is to provide a hub for the wide variety of arts we have here on our island so music, fine art, photography, fashion, cultural arts, film, theater, food, a broad range of our rich art community. A center to learn, make, share, and experience art with a strong focus on education, resource sharing, and business mentorship. We would like to see an art center grow the future businesses that would then occupy store fronts on Rice Street, warehouses in Lihue, and warehouses in Kapa'a. A place for our island residents...so we really sort of threw this art center envision,

cultivating a sense of place so a place for our island residents from kids to seniors to share in the experience of art. A place for visitors to engage and relish in our art culture, see art being made, participate in the process of making art, have stories to take home about our island art scene. A place to nurture ideas and a place to provide a foundation for a variety of art activity. Speaking to what Kat said about the Kapa'a art scene, so we envision an art center in Lihue could be a launching pad for a Lihue art night and a bustling art district. A place in the heart of our island to learn, do, and share because art really does matter. It is vital and it enriches the human experience. My personal experience with art here, I have been an artist in Hawai'i for over two (2) decades. My specialty is clothing, fashion, wearable arts, and interior design. I am fascinated by functional art and the way we chose to dress ourselves everyday when we go to work, the way we adorn our home, and our lifestyle. I was an artist in residence at the St. Regis for three (3) years and I had this wonderful experience of everyday I would interact with the visitors to the island. They would watch me create my line of handbags that I make out of recycled and vintage fabrics. They would sit and talk to me, ask me questions about what it is like to live on Kaua'i, how long have I lived here, where do I get my fabrics. They have this chance to take home this product that they saw being made and in some cases it would be specifically for them.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Ms. Tjarks: I envision an art center to be something like that.

Chair Furfaro: That is your three (3) minutes but I will give you another minute if you want to summarize.

Ms. Tjarks: The only other thing, I am here in support of the various other proposals being put in front of you and to see how we can all tie this all together and so The Kaua'i Art Factory has put out a community questionnaire to everyone on the island, adults and kids. Asking them what they would like to see in our community if an art center would develop in Lihue. So we would like to give you access to the results. We have seventy-one (71) filled out questioners so far and we would like to present each of you with a questionnaire.

Chair Furfaro: Thank you. We do not have to fill it out now though right?

Ms. Tjarks: It could be homework. You could get it back to us later.

Chair Furfaro: We will get it back to you.

Ms. Tjarks: If you would like access to the results we have it in graphs and a pie chart.

Chair Furfaro: Could I ask you to sit down and tell us for the record.

Ms. Tjarks: You can just contact us at The Kaua'i Art Factory and Kat also has the results of the seventy-one (71) studies we put out so far. It is kind of fascinating.

Chair Furfaro: And JoAnn as I have opened the door. Go ahead.

Ms. Yukimura: Just a clarifying question. Both for what you and Kat are talking about in terms of the center is meant to include retail, right?

Ms. Tjarks: Yes. We envision it to be an education space, a space for artist to do their work, as space for the work to be displayed and sold.

Ms. Yukimura: Okay. Thank you.

Chair Furfaro: I am going to ask one (1) question. Have you made an appointment to talk with George Costa from our Office of Economic Development?

Ms. Tjarks: I had serendipitously had an appointment with him once that went very well and Kat spoke to him last week and we are going to follow-up and have another appointment with him after this meeting.

Chair Furfaro: Thank you very much.

Ms. Tjarks: Thank you.

Chair Furfaro: Why do you not read the next two (2) speakers, please.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Next speaker is Carol Ann Davis followed by Romey Curtis.

Chair Furfaro: Carol Ann, good to see you this evening.

CAROL ANN DAVIS: Good to see you guys. I think I know most of you on the Council and I started appearing in front of the Council, I am going to tell you this first, in the sixties (60's) about fifty (50) years ago in support of the arts.



And I am just going to give you a little background on the arts on Kaua'i up to a certain period. I have been active in the arts...my name is Carol Ann Davis by the way. I have been active in the Kaua'i Arts and Cultural community for fifty (50) years since 1963. I am going to present a little of the past history of the arts so you can see how important it is for the County of Kaua'i to promote the arts on our island. In 1964, I was elected president of the Kaua'i Art Group formerly Nā Penaki'i O Kaua'i which none of you have ever heard of. I suspect Jean Gregg, Pat Matsumoto and myself are the only people remaining from that group. I chaired the group until 1969. Our first building, we have had five (5), was across the street from the Haleko Shops and was donated by American Factors (AMFAC). We eventually had to move when they developed the present building. We moved to the Rice Street building where the banyan tree is now which was owned by American Factors. AMFAC sponsored several exhibitions for us which was held in the space housing in front of the present Planning Department and the tax offices. We also held numerous community workshops and meetings in that building. In 1966 Mayor Antone Vidinah formed the Kaua'i Community Arts Council, a County Commission on the Arts. It was like the Charter Commission, it was actual County Commission. I was elected the first Chairperson and Aleta Kaohi was the secretary. We set up the first Arts Council. The Council included twenty-five (25) members and I could not find it. I only found out about this meeting yesterday and I could not find all of the members names but it included the Kaua'i Art Group, David Stem, of the performing arts, Mr. Yamane of the Japanese Dance Group, Jose Bulatao of the newly formed Filipino dance group, Mr. Bob Oda, The Japanese Bonsai Society, and many others. The Kaua'i Community Arts Council was an official County Commission. It was advised by the newly formed, statewide, State Foundation of Culture and the Arts, brilliantly chaired by Alfred Preis. At the same time Kaua'i Council led by Shigeomi Kubota, helped fund several Kaua'i cultural events like the first Hanmatsuri day which is the flower festival in Japan, which was held at the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall. The Bonsai Society, The Ikibana Society and Mr. Yamane's Japanese Dance troop participated in that festival. I worked closely with the Kaua'i Council to help fund this event. Mayor Anton Vidinha, assisted by Tad Miura worked closely with the Kaua'i Art Group in setting up an exhibition space in the lobby of the newly opened Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall. The Kaua'i County Council helped us to purchase hanging devices and stands for sculptures so we were able to have our first juried arts shop in 1968.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Chair Furfaro: Carol, on that note. You only finished the front page of your testimony but I am going to go ahead and give your three (3) minutes now. So continue reading.

Ms. Davis: Yes. I only have one and a half (1.5) pages. Sorry, this is only the tip of the iceberg I have written about. It was in conjunction with the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall. I am not going to mention the hanging devices but we continued to hang shows monthly for years until Mayor Vidinha left office. We tried to work with the next Administration but it proved difficult since they could not understand why the arts and cultural groups were allowed to exhibit and perform in the Convention Hall and stores selling appliances could not exhibit appliances. The County eventually took our hard won hanging devices, ordered from New York especially designed for the Convention Hall and used them for things all over the County Building. Anyhow, in May of 1967, the Kaua'i Community Arts Council sponsored a dance concert in conjunction with the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA). Mr. Yamane's dance group performed, Jose Bulatao's newly formed Filipino dance group, costumed by his mother, Guadalupe Bulatao, gave an exciting dance performance with the help of the County and State funding. Winona Beamer came from 'Oahu to train our Hawaiian dancers. She trained a group of young Hawaiian men to dance and this was the first time on Kaua'i that men had publically danced the hula for years. In 1973, I left Kaua'i to continue my education. A second Arts Council was funded and dissolved and the old Kaua'i Art Group also dissolved while I was off island. When I returned I took the job as the Kaua'i Arts Coordinator for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Mr. Alfred Preis wanted me to start another Arts Council. I called a meeting on March 30, 1977 at the American Savings and Loan office to discuss the formation of a new Arts Council. Carol Yotsuda was elected Chairperson, Mary Lou Barella, secretary, and Arnold Meister, Vice Chair. A totally new name was selected at that time, The Garden Island Arts Council. I also worked with Chris Terre and Carl Steinhart to begin a new art group called The Kaua'i Society of Art since the old art group had dissolved. I am going to go fast. The arts community started another arts center in Lihue near Kaua'i Pasta, the Garden Island Arts Center. We were assisted by the landowner in obtaining the building but it became necessary for the artist to again move out and business to move in so we lost our space. The Kaua'i Society of Artist now exhibits at a space kindly donated by Kukui Grove Shopping Center. The long lived third Garden Island Arts Council is still working in the community arts and culture. They once managed a gallery, meeting space where the old JC Penny store stood. Fun exhibitions and shows were held throughout the years. Unfortunately that space was lost to a new store moving in. Their hugely successful, *E Kanakapila Kakou* continues to delight residents and tourist. I present this as an early history of the arts on Kaua'i. We had a flourishing arts community on Kaua'i from the sixties (60's). The State and County governments were closely allied with the art community and provide funding and assistance...

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:

Chair, that is six (6) minutes.

Ms. Davis: ...to the arts groups in the sixties (60's). There is no money available or not much. Please reestablish the Community Arts Commission like we had in the sixties (60's) under the Vidinha Administration. We also have needed an arts center on Kaua'i for half a century. Please help us.

Chair Furfaro: Carol, thank you very much for this documented history.

Ms. Davis: Well this is just a little bit of it.

Chair Furfaro: A little bit of it but I do want you to know some of us are aware of that because my wife was a member of Winona Beamer's *halau* when they were here along with Berry Yap.

Ms. Davis: You were?

Chair Furfaro: Yes. That was 1973, yes?

Ms. Davis: Yes. That is incredible.

Chair Furfaro: I just remembered that. She was a young lady then.

Ms. Davis: Well the guys never danced until she came here. Incredible. Anyhow, we need an Arts Council like we had in the sixties (60's).

Chair Furfaro: Thank you. This was a very interesting piece. Thank you.

Ms. Davis: Thank you.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Chair, the next speaker is Romey Curtis followed by R. Eve Solomon.

Chair Furfaro: *Aloha*. Welcome.

ROMEY CURTIS: Good evening. Thank you for your time. My name is Romey Curtis and I am the President of Women In Theater which we are customarily known as WIT. I am here in support of the idea of an arts center. I think it would serve all of our arts so profoundly and in particular I am thinking with your support and partial funding we could keep prices for tickets down because that is a big thing for me, that everybody should be able to afford to come to the theater, not just be exclusive. Just in passing I have mentioned that Kaua'i

Community Players and WIT together have a mailing list of over one thousand (1,000) residents. So we do serve an interest of the island, certainly. But what I wanted to share with you is something that I thought would appeal to the business people on the Council. It is something that I found in the Smithsonian magazine about the greatest little places. And it is talking about a place called Lanesboro in Minnesota. It says that there is only a population of seven hundred forty-five (745) but that it was bypassed by the railroad and admired in agriculture crisis when the curtain first went up on the Commonweal Theater and a year later it was followed by a tourist office board and all up and down the street people were plumping up pillars for visitors who wanted to stay over to two or three (2-3) plays. And now the town is known as the Bed & Breakfast capital of Minnesota. I think that I should add that reading further down I find that they have a bike path developed right along the waterway and that it also has the Lanesboro Art Center which shows the work of over one hundred (100) regional artists. So you see it all seems to go together in my mind that this is a project that would benefit us in every way. Tourism is our biggest interest but we need to be our own people and enjoy our own arts as well. Thank you for your time.

Chair Furfaro:

And thank you for that piece of history.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:  
by Marj Dente.

Out next speaker is R. Eve Solomon followed

Chair Furfaro:

Good evening. Welcome.

REBECCA EVE SOLOMON: Thank you. My name is Rebecca Eve Solomon and I am a practicing artist, past Director of the Kaua'i Academy of Creative Arts and have been on the boards of the Garden Island Arts Council and the Kaua'i Society of Artist since 1988. I have worked at the art shop, a picture framing business on Akahi Street in Lihue for twenty-five (25) years and about once a month local customers, visitors, timeshare owners, or renters ask if I can recommend a teacher of drawing or painting for themselves, their friends, and especially their children. I regret telling them that I usually cannot unless there is a workshop going on, occasionally. An arts center with an arts and culture administrator would answer these requests positively and provide jobs for teachers of art, sellers of art supplies, and hopefully for framing businesses as well. I see the need almost monthly for an arts and cultural center administered by an arts and culture commissioner, centrally located in Lihue with ample parking, accessible to all, with classroom, storage, and gallery space. Thank you.

Chair Furfaro:

Thank you very much.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:  
William Arakaki.

The next speaker is Marj Dente followed by

MARJ DENTE: *Aloha* and thank you for having us to give testimony. My name is Marj Dente, I live in the Waipouli *ahupua'a*. I am in complete agreement with my artistic (inaudible) here to include in this year's budget some arts and crafts cultural requirements that we have needed for a long, long time. I have been an artist since I was a year old. My mother told me that I made designer mud pies by putting food coloring in my mud pies and I wish that all artist here on this community whether they are fine artist, filmmakers, photographers, musicians can finally have a home place for their beautiful work that is exhibited here and performed here all of the time. We need a gallery space large enough for large gatherings, mounted shows, small performing arts and music events for a rental fee therefore income. A meeting space for community meetings for a rental fee. At least two (2) classrooms for a rental fee. A library of donated books on artistic craft, performing arts film, photography, music subjects and I suggest a broadcast studio for our Kaua'i community radio, KKCR to allow the opportunity for live artistic programming. The perfect place for such a facility in my opinion would be in the old Big Save building, close to other visitor locations such as the Kaua'i Museum. Even though County offices have been recommended for this space they could be elsewhere. The alternative viable place would be the old Kaua'i Police Department building. This project and facility, once completed should be budgeted for one (1) full-time manager in my opinion and one (1) part-time administrative assistant/volunteer coordinator. Please consider the long overdue need for such a facility on Kaua'i. The professional and nonprofessional artist, crafters and musicians have carried the burden to display their talents entirely too long on Kaua'i without substantial financial assistance from the County government and again thank you very much for your consideration. *Aloha*.

Chair Furfaro:

Thank you, Marj.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:  
Carol Yotsuda.

Next speaker is William Arakaki followed by

WILLIAM "BILL" ARAKAKI: Good evening. My name is Bill Arakaki, I am the Complex Area Superintendent for the Department of Education, Kaua'i. I am here in support of the Keiki to Career Initiative. As Diane Zachary presented this is a unique effort for Kaua'i where Keiki to Career is from birth to careers meaning how do we support our families and children to be ready to learn and ready for life. Prior to this in January 2012 we met with the Principals, Vice Principals, Athletic Directors to ask what are the key areas they need support in from community, business, families, and so on? So the key areas that came up was parent training and education, mentorships, internships, apprenticeships, and externships, accessible, affordable, and coordinated childcare, after school programs, community wide emphasis and/or campaign on the importance of education, technology for every student and resources aligned directly towards

existing school initiatives. Keiki to Career supports us in that manner. We have a structure in which we have key members in the community besides myself, where we have a shared vision, shared measures, and ideas together because every time we have a change in key leadership roles, maybe my position as a Complex Area Superintendent or even the Mayor or different key areas, we have a group of people for the next twenty (20) years that will continue on this path so that we are consistent and we have outcomes that will happen. That is key for me because I need that consistency in education to happen. The collective impact now that we do have a shared vision and is aligned to our State vision as far as the Department of Education (DOE). Our three (3) strategic goals as far as student success, staff success, and system success. The shared measures are aligned to strive high indicators which is related to proficiency, growth, college readiness, chronic absenteeism, and those areas. There is a three (3) year navigation plan that supports our Department of Education especially since I deal with the K thru 12 spectrum. The four (4) areas in the navigation plan are from, again, birth to grade 3, and the other end is high school to post-secondary. All around the whole birth to post-secondary is your resilience and your life skills and then we focus on community and family engagement. These are four (4) key areas that are directly aligned to what we need to do in education also. We just completed three (3) of our high school post-secondary supports to our schools. We had businesses and community members, students, and teachers talk about how we can support students in being college and career ready as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. We did that in November at Kapa'a High School.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Chair Furfaro: Excuse me, Bill. That is three (3) minutes but I will give you additional time now.

Mr. Arakaki: Okay, thank you. We met in January at Waimea High School and just today, tonight, this evening at Kaua'i High School. Thank you so much for hearing me out. This model to me is so important that we put in some investment also as the Department of Education. Initially I put in twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) with our funding to support a feasibility study that supports why we are doing things with the community and with this Keiki to Career effort. I also received a grant for sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000). Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for this year, thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the next...2014-2015 and another five thousand dollars (\$5,000) as we close out the grant to support Keiki to Career. Basically what it helps me with is we are creating a Kaua'i Complex Area Ho'okele Council which members from the community, parent, students, and staff will guide me to align the initiatives with Keiki to Career and the indicators to create my Complex Area Plan and also introduce design thinking to Kaua'i which is a process in which we can make decisions and as a model throughout the community as far as using empathy and

different models for decision making. These are just examples of how this initiative realigns with what I need to do in my system and my schools and with my teachers, principals, and with families. I ask that you continue to support and thank you so much for supporting the early efforts with Keiki to Career and many others that you support that is related to the education of our children and families here. So thank you so much.

Chair Furfaro: Bill, I do have a question for you. Did you reference Po'okela as...

Mr. Arakaki: It is called Ho'okele. The world wide tour with the Hokule'a. Ho'okele means navigation. As a leader I need to navigate and be able to see that vision to that.

Chair Furfaro: I got it now. I thought you said Po'okela. Very good. Ke ano wa'a, keep the canoe straight.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The last speaker is Carol Yotsuda.

Chair Furfaro: Welcome Carol.

CAROL YOTSUDA: Hi. I am Carol Yotsuda, I am the Volunteer Executive Director for the Garden Island Arts Council and we have been busy since 1977. I have been involved with the arts for forty-four years in many volunteer capacities but mostly as coordinators for programs. Presently I am doing a twice a month calendar that goes out to four thousand five hundred (4,500) people and that gets forwarded many times over. I am sure many of you get my relentless e-mails so anyway because of this I have a pretty good finger on the pulse of the art community and not only the art community but business and so on because a lot of them send me things that they want to have go out to the community. My own involvement with the idea of the arts center has some highlights and I would like to point out those highlights to you. In the year 1980 we had for eleven (11) months a center right behind the Shell Service Station because the developer, Blackwell allowed us to fix up the place and so we had over fifteen (15) exhibition in that eleven (11) month period and some of the exhibitions were world class, I think for Kaua'i. The artists said that was the best year that we enjoyed because of the energy that was built. In 1997 till about 2002 Kukui Grove allowed us to use the old JC Penny building and when we first went in we were discouraged because the vender/shop owners would say "Welcome to Kukui Grave" and we were kind of shocked at that but we were very busy during that time doing about maybe ten to fifteen (10-15) exhibitions a year and it started to bring the community there and it was very busy all the time that we were there but we had to give the space up because it became Macy's or Liberty House or whatever. We had no space after that but artist are like termites, you just cannot keep them down they are here to stay so

you might as well recognize them and say okay you need a building to put all of your stuff together. And the Arts Council was no exception. We were busy from 2002 to 2005 working with other organizations trying to have an art center and it was a lot of meetings, a lot of paperwork. Garden Island Art Council spent forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) on that project but unfortunately it did not happen. But our programs were getting more and more popular. So what we did was we enhanced our Vango program which is a van that goes to all the communities and holds art programs...

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Ms Yotsuda: ...and this Saturday we have an exhibition reception for the kids of Ni'ihau who painted native Hawaiian plants and this is an example of the kind of project we do and we do major projects throughout the year. Our Hawaiian music program, in a way I am kind of glad that art center never happened because we were aiming for an auditorium of two hundred fifty (250) seats. Our present audience which we have at Kaua'i Beach Resort is anywhere from four hundred fifty to six hundred (450-600) every Monday night. So we did not know the program was going to grow this big but because of that we are kind of glad that we have to borrow spaces but still it would be really nice to have a space especially, I think for the theater groups. I do not know if you follow theater on this island but it is dynamic. Many organizations, theater organizations pace their play so that they can share the resources and the actors and actresses and they do this all on their own money. They do not go for grant support and it is amazing what they do. And so that is an example of a group that needs support. The artist, if you see them they are in Hanapēpē. My brother Masami Kouchi tells me, "Come to Kapa'a sometime, you cannot even walk on the sidewalk. You will get pushed off because it is so crowded" and I never brave Kapa'a traffic but one day I will go because I have heard it is pretty spectacular but that is another example. When I was working on developing the Kukui Grove gallery my friend Kim Coffee-Isaak was also starting the Arts at Mark's Garage. So she would write to me all of the time and ask me "how did you do this, how did you do that" and we would share information. If you go there now, that was the nucleus of what happened downtown and look how it spread out all over downtown. If you go on first Friday, two thousand (2,000) people walk through that crowded space. It is so crowded you have no room to walk around but the synergy of the groups that were working in there is pretty much what built it and I think if you can bring all of these energy people over together you cannot help it is going to synergistically grow and whoever the leader is or however the process is if you support this you will get so much back in terms of economic development, cultural attraction, and so on. I know you all and you all been involved in the arts in some way so it is not...I do not need to tell you what it is. You know what it is. I will leave it in your hands now because you are the ones that can make it happen. Thank you very much.



Chair Furfaro: Carol, may I ask you, in the future when you reference the capacity at the Kaua'i Beach, you need to cap it at five hundred forty-five (545). That is the building code, okay, and as the General Manager (GM) there for thirteen (13) years...

Ms. Yotsuda: Only once we went over.

Chair Furfaro: Okay, thank you, Carol. Is there anyone else that has not spoken that wishes to sign up and speak now?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Chair, we have one (1) more speaker that is registered, Tora Kaufman Smart.

Chair Furfaro: Okay. Tora, why do you not come up and if there is anyone else that wishes to speak please sign up now.

TORA KAUFMAN SMART: Thank you. I was not intending to speak. I had written a letter and I believe that was submitted by Kat Cowan, this is also my first time being here and speaking for you, so I am a bit nervous and thank you for the moment.

Chair Furfaro: Did you introduce yourself?

Ms. Smart: My name is Tora Kaufman Smart. I was raised here. I attended Island School in its early days. My mother was a founding mother. That was in the Kealia days. I remember campaigning for you, JoAnn Yukimura when I was seven (7) years old, knocking on doors.

Chair Furfaro: Seven (7) years old?

Ms. Smart: Yes, in Kapa'a. I eventually left to go to school, boarding school because at the time Island School was not fully developed. I finished high school and went to a University and always returned home here on all my trips, on all of my vacations. I consider Kaua'i my home. I went on to a University, I got my Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology, I have worked as a school psychologist for (inaudible) Unified School District and then I returned back here ten (10) years ago with my husband and my four (4) year old son. I always felt that at some point my son would out grow Kaua'i. He is now fourteen (14). I am now a small business owner in Hanalei. I have a hair salon and a gift boutique. I use my psychology skills in my boutique and my salon with sixteen (16) women and we create a livelihood for sixteen (16) families out in the north shore. My main focus is being a mother of a fourteen (14) year old son here. My son attends Island School now, he is a freshman and he loves living here and his age group I see if you are not an athlete, if you do not have a passion that is driving you motivation every

day there are not many opportunities here. My husband and I work very hard to supply that for our son. To keep him focused, to keep him engaged. My concern and my psychology background is seeing kids that are bored, that do not have any interest other than texting and posing for Instagram and I am very concerned with teen depression and teen suicide. We struggle hard in our family and in my extended community to create this type of environment for children and our friend's children to have a good time in a safe environment. I see the arts as fundamental in life. Engaging in an artistic pursuit, whether it is going to be a career or just as a hobby can add a lot of meaning to a person's life and joy that can combat depression and boredom which can lead to destructive behavior. I see that our children are told what not to do but are not given healthy alternatives.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Chair Furfaro: You can summarize if you would like.

Ms. Smart: As a mother of a teen, I see potential here where we can create a thriving, vibrant, exciting activities here that are healthy, that can capture their imagination, can give them a path of an area of curiosity that will be life-long, that will keep them on the island, they can have it as a hobby or as a career and this can add meaning to a person's life and I remember Kaua'i having more opportunity when I was a child here growing up...I remember Lihue being more vital. I remember the roller skating rink and we do not have that anymore and it saddens me. Thank you very much.

Chair Furfaro: Thank you very much.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The next speaker is Stacey Gillette.

Chair Furfaro: Stacey Gillette and followed by?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: That was the last registered speaker, Chair.

Chair Furfaro: Okay.

STACEY GILLETTE: Good evening. This is my first time testifying so you will have to bear with me. Has the time begun? Okay. I am Stacey Gillette. I am the Keiki to Career Coordinator. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you on different occasions and I am here to talk a little bit more in depth, I understand that Diane Zachary presented some information about the overall initiative but I want to hone in on a few specific topics. The first is to highlight the public/private partnership that we have. Particularly around funding so while we do rely County funding to support the initiative and I want to thank you for that in the past. We have been able to attract some private dollars and

what those dollars allow us do to is take the State and local funding that we received and really expand the work into the four (4) major focus areas. So just to name a few, The Learning Coalition, I want to recognize them as an anchor funder. They have been with us from the very beginning. I had the first conversation when we started to dream about what it could look like just as the woman mentioned earlier when we create an island that really nurtures and supports our youth from the time that they are born all the way until they are careered and really our mission is to unite the community around that process and the vision that we have is that youth, when they reach adulthood are healthy, confident, confident, and caring. And that is no short order, that takes all of us really working together so I want to take The Learning Coalition for their support and I believe that Matt Lauren will be submitting his written of support to the Council for your consideration. I also want to recognize the Hawai'i Community Fund. They have been instrumental in connecting us with donors who have similar desires to support youth in different ways. We are here to change the way we do business and to really think about expanding those supports beyond just what happens in the schools which is very, very important but also what happens at home and what happens throughout the entire community. And so both the Marisla Fund and the Atherton Family Foundation have come in to support a particular area that I want to highlight which is around shared measures. Having a dream is important, having a vision is important, but measuring our progress and holding ourselves accountable as a community for how we help young people grow is important. And I want to report that we have made great strides in this area. We have been meeting with a collection of different thought partners and leaders to think about what are the measures that we want to hang our hat on and hold ourselves accountable for and the first is making sure that all of our *keiki* are kindergarten ready. When they walk in the door they are ready to learn and so we have been working in partnership with the Department of Education to measure that and report that on an annual basis and more importantly to learn from it.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Ms. Gillette: And the other important measures...I realized that is a really fast three (3) minutes. Just to mention academic success, third grade reading, eighth and eleventh grade reading, math and science and then most...well equally important college and career readiness. So thank you for your consideration, for your previous support and I hope you will continue to be a funding partner with us.

Chair Furfaro: Is there anyone else yet to speak at the public hearing portion?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Yes, there is another registered speaker, Pat Griffin.

Chair Furfaro: If there is anyone else in the audience that plans to speak now please sign up at this time. If not, Pat please come right up.

PAT GRIFFIN: Good evening. Chair Furfaro and County Councilmembers, thank you for taking the time tonight. My name is Pat Griffin and I had not planned to speak which is what you saw me waffling back and forth. I am privileged to serve on the Lihue District Community Plan that is now in progress. As you all know the Lihue District is from the north bank of the north fork of the Wailua River to the western boundary of Kipu. So it is a very large district which contains our court, our airport, our County seats and our only institution of higher learning and many other activities. Ms. Cowan, you may have gotten the vision document that she showed about the arts and talks about and someone else mentioned about looking in the Lihue District for an arts community. I am also privileged to serve as President of the Lihue Business Association and that group is really centered on the idea of working towards a prosperous future. A prosperity that is economic but also social, cultural, environmental for Lihue but rippling through the rest of Kaua'i and the possibility of this feasibility study that Ms. Cowan talked about is very...is a small amount of money during a challenging time that could work to revitalize this center of our island community. Some of you may have seen a little part of it on Thursday nights if you have been down Rice Street. I may have seen a couple of you in the room at the Kaua'i Brewery down the street. The arts can do much the same thing in terms of bringing that traffic, bringing renewal and the arts, we have seen and heard some passionate people here as working artist, I actually served in 1985 on Mayor Kunimura's Garden Island Council and Culture in the Arts, which was a County Committee but that concept of utilizing for the *keiki* certainly. Both of my sons were in sports, in soccer and inline skating and also were involve in tumbling and other arts activities and one of our adult sons now is a working artist as well. And actually makes his living at it which, I am happy to say he has been a real success. So I encourage you all to think even in this toughest of seasons in you budgeting this year to think about this study as a small way for taking a step to...

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Three (3) minutes.

Ms. Griffin: ...revitalizing and encouraging our financial prosperity in Lihue and on the island. Thank you.

Chair Furfaro: Thank you, Pat. On that note I do want to share with the people in the audience that there are a lot of things coming about in the County of Kaua'i right now and I certainly am very pleased to hear all of you enthusiasm and creativeness on this issue, especially on dealing with the culture and arts here on our island. You do and should know that working through Diane is a very, very important step. That is these kind of potential facilities are on our radar screen. We also have the potential at the Big Save space which is owned by

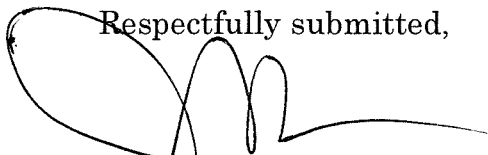
the County of Kaua'i. We also have a possibility or opportunities with the Filipino community who is planning a facility, a cultural facility whose theme is a place for all. So there are some things out there on the radar screen. I would encourage you to continue to work with George. I heard what you said about maybe a grant to get this started but in my twelve (12) years on the Council, I want to be very honest with you and do not want to over promise this year and then under deliver. This is the toughest financial period, I think the County has gone through during my time on the Council and we potentially will be short by seven million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$7,700,000) for our operating budget. But I want to thank you for your testimony. Those red flags that I put up...please continue you focus and support and I believe this Council understands the value of what you talked about today. Thank you very much. On that note...we have one statement that has to be read. To the Clerk's Office.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Pursuant to Section 5A-6.3 of the Kaua'i County Code 1987, as amended, the Kaua'i County Council hereby announces its intention to fix the Real Property Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 on May 28, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., or soon thereafter in the Council Chambers located at 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawai'i.

Chair Furfaro: Thank you, Jade. I got a little bit ahead of myself but that statement needed to be read.

There being no further testimony on this matter, the public hearing adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
Deputy County Clerk

:lm

